mation of the present Government stating the countries visited, the purpose of their visit and the expenditure incurred in terms of foreign exchange in each case ; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the expenditure incurred on these tours was not in line with the austerity measures adopted by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Publicity of Demand by Millitants

1232. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the role played by media in the context of the growing cult of abductions and Kidnappings amongst the militants and the criminals; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have, taken to curb undue publicity to militants' demand , which not only demoralise the public but also hampers the work of the investigating and security agencies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) A comprehensive policy on kidnappings by terrorist groups is presently under consideration of the Government.

Release of Dimond Merchants

1233. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any attempts to nab the kidnappers responsible for holding captive five Bombay based merchants in the basement of a house at Sukhdev Vihar, New Delhi;

(b) whether Government have sought assistance of Interpol in this regards; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the precise outcome of the investigations, indicating the amount of ransom, if any, paid locally or abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: : (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Central Bureau of Investigation who have been entrusted with the investigation of the case have reported that the case is at a crucial stage and disclosure of details would have an adverse impact on the investigation.

Terrorist outfits in Jammu and Kashmir

1234. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFARIS be pleased to state;

(a) the names of militants outfits active in Jammu and Kashmir, with and without international ramifications;

(b) the estimated number of the militants in each of the above outfits and their declared objectives and *modu soperandi* ;

(c) the number of militants nabbed/killed during the past six months; and

(d) the number of civilians and officers kidnapped and killed and held captive by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d) There are 136 reported terrorist outfits operating in the Valley The list of the names is enclosed (*See* below). Some of the major outfits like Hizbul Mujahideen (HUM), Muslim Janbaz Force (MJF), Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen (IUM), Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Amar-ul-Mujahideen (AUM) are receiving patronage from Pakistan. According to the information available there are over 10,000 trained terrorists in the Valley though many of them may not be active, A large number of them belong of to these major a groups. Of these groups, JKLF and some others propagate for independence of Kashmir, while other outfits like Hizbul Mujahideen are for the merger of the State with the Pakistan.